



THE OBSTRUCTING OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST ACTIVITIES A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN INDIA AND VIETNAM

Mr. Sam Vu Thang¹ | Dr. Sapna M. S.²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Studies in Journalism and Communication, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysuru - 570006, Karnataka, India.

²Professor, Department of Studies in Journalism and Communication, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysuru -570006, Karnataka, India.

ABSTRACT

In the present study, the authors study obstructing investigative journalist activities between India in Vietnam. The total sample in this study is 500 investigative journalists in both countries India and Vietnam. Sampling has a balance between age groups, gender, job experience and type of media. Through surveying investigative journalists and interviews in-depth, this study has listed six groups that hinder, analyze and find new issues related to investigative journalists' professional operations. In addition, a preliminary assessment of its impact on investigative journalists.

INTRODUCTION:

Actions that prevent investigative journalists have had different consequences. Therefore, it is important and scientifically significant to learn about the forms of obstruction of investigative journalists and their consequences in both India and Vietnam. Unlike other journalism activities, investigative journalists are constantly prevented and threatened in many forms which not only target them but also their family members, friends, colleagues, the newspaper house which they work for.

During the course of an investigation, the journalists have no the same power as prosecutors or police who are in charge of the investigation, but, by all means, they must make a plan to find the truth.

In spite of extreme importance both in theory and practice, unfortunately, what mentioned above have not been fully studied and there are very few studies on the issues that this research paper focuses on. Therefore, it can be said that this project of the author is a study with new aspects and approaches in research on investigative journalism, both in Vietnam and India.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The Oxford Concise Dictionary (2004), define investigative (of a journalist) as meaning "Investigating and seeking to expose malpractice or the miscarriage of justice".

Carl Bernstein (1977), One of the two authors of the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of the U.S 37th president Richard Nixon in 1974, investigative reporting is simply "trying to find the truth" and doesn't believe investigative reporting is "some kind of pseudoscience ... all good reporting is really the same. It's an attempt at attaining the best version of the truth".

Woodward, B. (2005). The Secret Man - The story of Watergate's Deep Throat. One of the two authors of the watergat case said that there are many difficulties due to being prevented from many people, in many different ways such as: bribing, preventing investigators from accessing information, threatening careers and lives...ect as they carried out a series of investigations. On the journey to find the truth to protect that justice and righteousness, what investigative journalists want to find is what others never want to reveal. Therefore, those who hold information and secrets will always find ways to refuse, hinder the activities of investigative.

Chitra Subramaniam (1993). Bofors: The Story Behind the News. This is the first to expose all about India's dirtiest political scandal and its cover-up from those involved from the point of view of the author who broke the story in India. Dirty tricks to stop the young female journalist at the time, the investigative story brought her pain and stain as she told the story during her pregnancy, then raising her child.

The Oxford Concise Dictionary (2004), defines obstructing as Prevent or a movement or someone in motion.

However, the investigative press documents did not mention the concept that obstruction investigative journalists but using the concept of "press attack".

Up to now, according to our studies, the phrase "obstructing journalists" in the

view of developed countries is in a broader concept called "press attacks".

OBJECTIVE:

1. To study types of obstructing investigative journalist in India and Vietnam.
2. To study the consequences of obstructing the investigative journalist in India and Vietnam.

HYPOTHESIS:

There are many types of obstruction to investigative journalists' activities in India and Vietnam.

Obstructing journalists' professional activities affects the right to access information of journalists as well as society in both countries.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study had taken 500 investigative journalists in India and Vietnam, 250 samples for each country. Sampling has a balance between age groups, gender, job experience and type of media.

The tools were constructed by the researcher and validity and reliability are also.

The author has over 20 years of experience in investigative journalism and teaching Journalism and communication in Vietnam.

Types of obstructions to investigative journalists:

In this study, the author gave a list of behaviours that hinder journalists from investigating, the results obtained after conducting surveys by questionnaires and in-depth interviews are as follows.

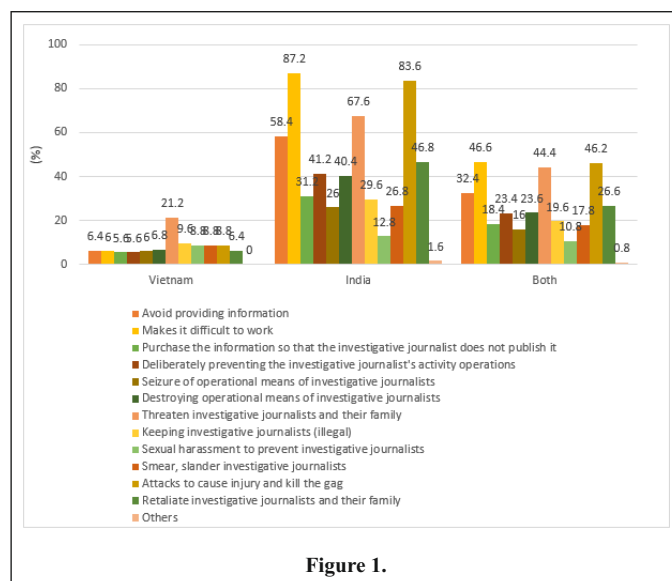


Figure 1.

The above Figure 1 indicates that the investigative journalists in Vietnam and India pointed out and noted what behaviours are hindered investigative journalists' activities?

In this study, we provide nine options for respondents. Respondents can choose one or more different responses.

The above issues are selected by us based on the following basic reasons:

First, these are the issues that are regulated in the laws of both Vietnam and India. In particular, these issues are specified in the Press Law of Vietnam.

Second, these issues are mentioned and concerned by many investigative journalists in both Vietnam and India.

Third, these are the experiences of the author himself in the process of his journalism experience.

In this study, author want to approach investigative journalists, who have many years of investigation writing experience. Therefore, this informations received from the working process of the investigative journalist in Vietnam and India.

In figure 1 above, there is a significant difference in the selection of investigative journalists. Accordingly, investigative journalists in Vietnam choose only one answer. Indian investigative journalists choose many different options. As required by the survey, the respondents can choose one or more options, and therefore, we respect and accept the responses of investigative journalists in both India and Vietnam.

The table and figure above show the information very clear that the proportion for answer Avoid providing the information is 32.4% (162/500) in both India and Vietnam. The more detail for this information in India is 58.4% (146/250 respondents), respectively 6.4% (16/250 respondents) in Vietnam. Therefore, the rate of first values in India is higher than in Vietnam. In addition, the feedback in Vietnam is very careful in assessing information from sources.

The second factor is making it difficult for investigative journalists in the working process. The rate is 6% (15/250 respondents) coming from investigative journalists in Vietnam. Meanwhile, the corresponding rate of 87.2% (233/250) came from Indian investigative journalists. The average rate of both Vietnam and India is 46.6% (233/500 respondents). Therefore, the rate of second values in India is higher than in Vietnam.

The third factor is: Purchase the information for does not publish it when the journalist investigates in the course of work. The rate is 5.6% (14/250 respondents) coming from investigative journalists in Vietnam. Meanwhile, the corresponding rate of 31.2% (78/250) came from Indian investigative journalists. The average rate of both Vietnam and India is 18.4% (92/500 respondents). Therefore, the rate of third values in India is higher than in Vietnam.

The answer for the scale of values four is deliberately preventing the investigative journalist's activity operations show the result that there are 5.6% respondents (14/250) in Vietnam, while the corresponding rate in India is 41.2% respondents (103/250). The proportions in both countries for the fourth values are 23.4% (117/500 respondents).

The proportions in both countries for the option Seizure of operational means of investigative journalists. There are 16% (80/500), while, 26% (65/250) in India and 6% (15/250) in Vietnam.

In the fifth value, the proportion in both countries is 23.6% (118/500), in India are 40.4% (101/250 respondents) and for Vietnam are 6.8% (17/250) respectively.

The table and figure above show the information for value Destroying operational means of investigative journalists, get the percentages of 44.4% respondents (222/500) in both countries. While the rate in India is 67.6% respondents (169/250) and respectively at 21.2% respondents (53/250) in Vietnam.

The result for the scale of option Threaten investigative journalists and their families; The figure above show the information that 44.4% respondents (222/500) in both countries. While the rate in India is 67.6% respondents (169/250) and respectively at 21.2% respondents (53/250) in Vietnam.

The result for the scale of option is keeping investigative journalists (illegal law) shows that there are 9.6% respondents (24/250) in Vietnam, while the corresponding rate in India is 29.6% respondents (74/250). The proportions in both countries for these values are 19.6% (98/500 respondents).

In the answer for the scale of values Smear, slander investigative journalists show the result that there are 8.8% respondents (22/250) in Vietnam, while the corresponding rate in India is 12.8% respondents (32/250). The proportions in both countries for these values are 10.8% (54/500 respondents).

The results from the figure above show the information for option Attacks to

cause injury and kill the gag investigative journalists; there are 46.2% respondents (231/500) in both countries India and Vietnam. The more detail for this information in India is 83.6% (146/250 respondents), respectively 8.8% (22/250 respondents) in Vietnam. Therefore, the rate of this value in India is higher than in Vietnam.

In the answer for the scale of values is Retaliate investigative journalists and their families show the result that there are 6.4% respondents (16/250) in Vietnam, while the corresponding rate in India is 46.8% respondents (117/250). The proportions in both countries for this value are 26.6% (133/500 respondents).

In the last factor, it is clear that there is no choice for the values from Vietnam, while the result in India is 1.6% respondents (4/240). In both countries remain the average proportions of 0.8% respondents (4/500) with respect to this aspect.

The consequences of obstructing to investigative journalist:

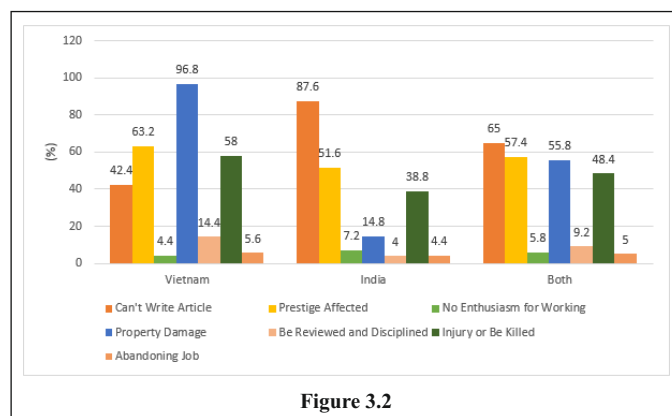


Figure 3.2

Figure 3.2 shows the consequence of obstruction investigative journalist. There are: can't write an article, prestige affected, losing the enthusiasm of working, property damage, being reviewed and disciplined, be dangerous, injury, killed), abandoning job.

The above consequence is negative affections. Some are normal react but the others are really serious. But obviously, the obstructing influences to the effective of investigation or even journalist. In both countries, there are some differences about that, let's check the chart.

In Vietnam, the biggest consequence is property damage. 242 people take 96.8% chose. It meant almost all people think obstructing damage the waste of property even the time of working. Otherwise, prestige is affected. 63.2% (158 people) take in the total rate. Moreover, the next rate belongs to the huge consequence: injury or be killed. It is really serious real in Vietnam. 145 people (58%) interviewer reveal about that. Besides, the truth can't write an article that is naturally effective. Otherwise, losing enthusiasm, be reviewed and disciplined, or quitting a job is just a small consequence for the journalist.

Different from Vietnam, the hugest consequence journalist suffer is can't write an article. Otherwise, it affects the prestige with 51.63% in all. After that, injury and life are considered as their third consequence there. And about another, it just contributes a small result.

FINDING:

Firstly, the acts of obstructing or influencing investigative journalists in India and Vietnam are very diverse.

Second, investigative journalists in India have noted that the behavior of hindering investigative journalists' operations differs from that of Vietnam.

Third, acts of obstructing the operational activities of investigative journalists depending on each case and specific circumstances.

Fourth, obstructing investigative journalists will have many negative consequences.

Fifth, In Vietnam, the biggest consequence is property damage.

Sixth, in India, the worst consequence is not completing the investigative story.

SUMMARY:

All content in this research paper is analyzed and modeled based on scientific method. On that basis, the author gives analysis, explanation and finds new points for each element.

Through our analysis, we found that there are many similarities, creating a common assessment and consensus among investigative journalists in both India and Vietnam. There are some points of difference in the assessment and perception of

the issue by investigative reporters in India and Vietnam. It is also common in research and in everyday investigative journalism practice. On the other hand, there are differences in press operation environment, political institutions, and media management methods between Vietnam and India.

However, despite these differences, the common standards in investigative journalism and the core strengths of investigative journalism are still objectively and impartially evaluated by investigative journalists.

REFERENCES:

- I. Behrens, J. C., (1977) *The Typewriter Guerrillas: Close-ups of Twenty Top Investigative Reporters*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.
- II. Burgh, d. (2000). *Investigative journalism: Context and practice*. London: Routledge.
- III. Chitra Subramaniam (1993). *Bofors: The Story Behind the News*, Viking, Penguin India
- IV. Soanes, C., Stevenson, A., & Pearsall, J., (2004) *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 11th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- V. Spark, D. (1999). *Investigative reporting: A study in technique*. Oxford: Focal Press. Spencer, S. (2001). *Reluctant witness*: Institute for Public Policy Research.
- VI. Woodward, B. (2005). *The Secret Man - The story of Watergate's Deep Throat*. New York: Simon and Schuster.